

## § 230.32

of nonindustrial private forest lands within the State.

### § 230.32 National program administration.

(a) The Chief shall develop and implement FLEP in partnership with State forestry agencies and in consultation with other Federal, State, and local natural resource management agencies, institutions of higher learning, and a broad range of private sector interests.

(b) In collaboration with State Foresters, the Chief of the Forest Service and Responsible Officials shall oversee developing and implementing FLEP policy and procedure, including the monitoring of program results over the life of FLEP to ensure that environmental, economic, and social values and public benefits are derived from the program.

(c) The Chief shall annually distribute such funds as may be available for FLEP to the Responsible Official(s) for each of the three geographic funding areas based on the criteria set out in the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3310.

(d) In developing allocation factors for making FLEP distributions under this subpart,

(1) The Chief shall consult with the State Foresters through their Forest Resource Management Committee, a standing committee of the National Association of State Foresters, or its successor.

(2) Allocation factors shall be based on National data sources that address the current status of forest lands of each State or Territory participating in FLEP. Data must be measurable, inclusive of all States, objective, and reliable. The data will address those factors described in the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (16 U.S.C. 2103(i), Distribution of Cost-Share Funds).

(e) National priorities for FLEP shall reflect the Department and Forest Service priorities for nonindustrial private forest land as provided in the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3310.

(f) The Responsible Official(s) in each of the three geographic funding areas shall coordinate with their respective State Foresters to determine the final

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allocation to each State based on the following:

- (1) National priorities;
- (2) National allocation factors;
- (3) Regional and State-wide priorities;
- (4) Ability of the State to deliver FLEP; and
- (5) Direction in the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3310.

(g) FLEP financial assistance may be disbursed to a third party that will assist in program delivery. The Forest Service may disburse funds directly to a third party, which may include, but is not limited to, Federal, State, or local agencies, and landowner, non-profit, or private organizations, with written approval by the State Forester.

(h) Except as provided at § 230.34(d), no financial assistance shall be provided by the Forest Service to a State Forester or any third party, until the Responsible Official has concurred with the State's priority plan.

(i) The Chief has final authority to resolve all issues that may arise in the administration of FLEP.

(j) The Forest Service shall provide National and regional administrative and financial support and oversight through distribution of available FLEP funds to State Foresters and through monitoring, review, and evaluation of FLEP activities and accomplishments.

(k) FLEP funds may not be used by States for capital investments or capital improvements unless specifically authorized in a funding document and must be limited to \$5,000. The limitation on capital improvements excludes practices and activities cost-shared with landowners through FLEP.

(l) Funds may not be authorized in the financial assistance document or used for the purchase of land, any interest in land, or any interest in an endowment.

(m) By September 30, 2006, the Chief must submit a cumulative report to the Secretary of Agriculture summarizing all the activities and practices funded under FLEP as of that date.

### § 230.33 Responsible Official program administration.

(a) The Responsible Official shall review and provide concurrence with

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State priority plans, including any revisions of such plans.

(b) The Responsible Official shall provide oversight for all aspects of FLEP, including program reviews and shall ensure that the Forest Service is represented on each State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

(c) The Responsible Official shall disburse funds to the State Forester or their designated third parties in a timely manner.

(d) The Responsible Official shall determine the final funds distribution to States.

(e) The funds will be distributed to individual States based on criteria in § 230.32 (f).

(f) Policy in the Forest Service Manual Chapter 3310 will provide additional direction for funding distribution.

(g) The Responsible Official must submit an annual report to the Chief summarizing all activities and practices funded through FLEP for the previous fiscal year.

(h) By September 1, 2006, the Responsible Official must submit a cumulative report to the Chief summarizing all activities and practices funded through FLEP as of June 1, 2006, along with copies of the reports submitted from the participating States.

### § 230.34 State program administration.

(a) In States electing to participate in FLEP, the State Forester and the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, established pursuant to section 19(b) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 2101, *et seq.*), shall jointly develop a State priority plan. The plan must be submitted to the appropriate Responsible Official for review and concurrence.

(b) The State Forester shall develop, implement and administer FLEP consistent with the State priority plan. The State Forester must ensure that all activities are carried out properly and that all cost-shared practices meet the appropriate standards and specifications.

(c) No match of funds is required from the State for participation in FLEP.

(d) In order to facilitate development of FLEP any State may request up to

\$50,000 of the first-year allocation in advance of Forest Service concurrence with a State priority plan.

(e) Each State participating in FLEP shall submit an annual report to the respective Responsible Official, reporting all activities and practices funded through FLEP for the previous fiscal year. The report shall contain data on accomplishments by educational assistance, technical assistance, and cost-share assistance based on State objectives and measurable outcomes included in State priority plans.

(f) By July 15, 2006, the State Forester of each State participating in FLEP must submit to the respective Responsible Official a summary report of all State activities and practices funded through FLEP as of June 1, 2006.

### § 230.35 FLEP elements.

(a) States may use FLEP funds to assist landowners in managing their non-industrial private forest lands and related resources through the following elements:

(1) Development and implementation of educational programs;

(2) Resource management expertise and technical assistance; and

(3) Financial assistance through cost-share programs.

(b) All participating States may use a portion of allocated funds for FLEP administration costs.

(c) States do not have to participate in all FLEP elements.

### § 230.36 State priority plan—purpose and scope.

(a) The State priority plan shall be used to guide FLEP implementation in each participating State through fiscal year 2007 and can be revised as needed.

(b) The State priority plan must describe the various roles and responsibilities of the State Forester, State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, and other agencies and organizations in FLEP planning, delivery, and accountability to the program objectives.

(c) The State priority plan must contain the following:

(1) Data from standard forest inventory and analysis reports on the forest resources found within the State;